

native Halifax County and served as Principal of Pittman Elementary School. While there, he instituted a number of successful programs that helped to create an environment in which every child could learn successfully. In 1992, he was appointed Principal of Brawley Middle School where he was so successful that he was named Halifax County School's Wachovia Principal of the Year. In 1994, Steve returned to the newly merged Edgecombe County—Tarboro City School System where he served as Principal of Stocks Elementary School.

Two years later, Steve Thornton was recruited to serve as Executive Director of Human Resource Services with the Wilson County Public Schools. The following year he ascended to the position of Assistant Superintendent of Human Resource Services, the position that he now holds. Steve is well respected and revered by the community and his colleagues in the entire school system. They will miss his spirit of dedication and excellence.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Steve Simon Thornton for 31 years of service to the precious children of eastern North Carolina and for his commitment to education. I ask that my colleagues wish Steve Thornton God's continued blessings as he continues on life's journey.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 30, 2012

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$15,713,655,602,953.23. We've added \$5,086,778,554,040.15 to our debt in a little over 3 years. This is debt our Nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN PLASTIC TOYS INCORPORATED

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 30, 2012

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge American Plastic Toys Incorporated, upon its 50th anniversary. American Plastic Toys is headquartered in Walled Lake, Michigan and operates a total of three facilities in Michigan and Mississippi. As a genuine model of American manufacturing, the company has proudly manufactured safe toys in America since 1962.

American Plastic Toys assembles 100% of the toys in their more than 125 item product line in the United States. It is worth noting less than 4% of their toy value content is imported and the majority of this minuscule percentage are sound components and fasteners, none of which are painted. Proudly, American Plastic Toys molds most of the components in their products in their own plants or purchases them from U.S. companies.

Dedicated to providing youngsters with safe toys and furniture for role play, riding and pre-school learning along with summer and winter fun, American Plastic Toys mandates every product be tested by at least one independent U.S. safety-testing lab. They are focused on ensuring their toys comply with every applicable safety standard.

The products manufactured by American Plastic Toys are sold by most major North American mass merchants. Their toys are also available in Central and South America and Australia. No doubt, American Plastic Toys has encouraged the imagination of many a child.

Mr. Speaker, for 50 years American Plastic Toys Incorporated has consistently been committed to a truly American product with a legacy of excellence, ingenuity, and the irrepressible spirit of the American entrepreneur. Today, as the company celebrates this enormous milestone, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating American Plastic Toys and recognizing their years of loyal service to our community and country.

HONORING TIMBER POINT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL'S 5TH GRADE STUDENTS FOR WINNING THE DISNEY PLANET CHALLENGE

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 30, 2012

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jennifer Giordano's 5th Grade Class at Timber Point Elementary School of East Islip, NY. Recently, the class was recognized as the Disney Planet Challenge's 2011–2012 New York State winners. They also placed 5th overall in the entire country. I am honored to have this school, Jennifer Giordano and all these students in the 2nd Congressional District of New York.

The Disney Planet Challenge is a competition designed to encourage American youth to play a key role in impacting the environment classroom by classroom. By learning the merits of conservation and innovative energy solutions, students become aware of the importance of protecting our environment. The challenge's interdisciplinary approach involves math, science, and English in order to motivate students to compete for a common goal. This is being applied on Long Island and across the nation.

Ms. Giordano's 5th Grade Class at Timber Point Elementary School embodies the spirit of thinking globally while acting locally. This all started with the film WALL-E, which inspired the students to launch a project focused on keeping non-biodegradable trash and dangerous chemicals out of local landfills. They met this goal by holding themselves and their community accountable. This included urging local restaurants to use biodegradable materials, setting up compost sites, initiating a battery collection program, and starting recycling programs. These 5th graders have successfully made their community more aware of how their habits impact our environment. Their hard work shows that when we all work together to do our part, we can make a big difference.

I commend these students for their dedication to their community and our planet. I would

also like to honor their teacher, Jennifer Giordano, and their parents for instilling in these children the importance of protecting our environment for future generations. As the New York State winners of the Disney Planet Challenge, I would like to formally submit all of these students' names in recognition of their achievements:

Zaina Abdelbaky, Brittney Amaru, Nicolette Banville, Charlie Curran, Kyle DeLisi, Nickolas Dimitriou, Ryan Engblom, Lauren Florenz, Steven Geisler, Nicole Graziano, Tom Hazell, Shannon Hubany, Dylan Lopez, Natalia Lozinski, Owen Meddis, Julia Ryan, Kerri Smith, Katelyn Spina, Natalie Stergakos, Ryann Tracy, Cassidy Triolo Matthew Pinz.

IN HONOR OF POLISH CONSTITUTION DAY

HON. ANN MARIE BUEKLE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 30, 2012

Ms. BUEKLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Polish Constitution Day: a day in which we celebrate the signing of Europe's first written constitution.

The Polish Constitution was signed into law on May 3, 1791. It was preceded only by the United States Constitution, making Poland the second nation in the world to establish a written constitution.

Once a monarchy, Poland recognized and declared the sovereignty of its citizens through the renunciation of noble power and the signing of the Polish Constitution.

Much like the United States Constitution, the Polish Constitution grants legal rights for all, freedom of religion, separation of powers, and political equality.

To this day, the principles of democracy have been central to the Polish people, including the many Polish-Americans who have made significant contributions to the United States of America and communities across this great nation.

It is with privilege that I pause and join with members of Congress, people across the United States, Poland, and nations around the world in commemorating and celebrating the Polish Constitution and the many efforts that the Polish people have made towards the development and growth of democracy throughout the world.

HONORING DR. THOMAS SMITH

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 30, 2012

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following proclamation.

Whereas, Dr. Thomas Smith has distinguished himself as an Educator in American government and civic leadership at Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. High School in DeKalb County, Georgia; and

Whereas, Dr. Smith for the last ten (10) years has led his ninth grade civic students in the study of civic leadership both through academics and community service; and

Whereas, he spearheaded the effort to bring federal and state legislators to the school on